

Project Code and Title

4313GA National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS)

Project Objective

To collect detailed information on a national level about shoulder belt, child restraint and motorcycle helmet use.

Background

Although every state except one collects safety belt data in their state, no standard survey method or collection procedure is followed. Most state surveys collect data only for the vehicles and persons covered by the safety belt law in their state. In addition to a lack of consistent data on restraint use, detailed data were not available for safety belt use for occupants of passenger cars and light trucks separately and by age and sex of the occupant. Similarly, no national data were available for child restraint use or motorcycle helmet use.

Problem Definition

Restraint use varies by both type of vehicle (car or light truck), age and sex of occupant, and various other factors. However, no national level data are available with measurable reliability that capture restraint use by these factors.

Research Approach

An observational survey will be conducted at a random sample of approximately 4,000 road segments across the country. Vehicles in urban, suburban and rural areas will be observed. Small local roads and busy interstates are included in the sample.

Potential Impact/Application

Better understanding of belt use in the country will enable current restraint use programs to be evaluated and new programs to be developed.

Key Milestones

- ▶ Data collection will begin in October 1996 and continue for two months.
- ▶ Data analysis will be completed by November 1997.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01
Contract Money (\$K)	\$550K	\$300K	\$315K	\$331K	\$347K

Project Manager(s)

Terry Shelton, (202) 366-5362, TSHELTON@dot.nhtsa.gov

Completion Date

November 1997

Publications

1. T. Shelton, "Observed Safety Belt Use in 1994", NHTSA Research Note, February 15, 1995.
2. T. Shelton, "National Occupant Protection Use Survey: Controlled Intersection Study", May 1, 1995.
3. T. Shelton, "National Occupant Protection Use Survey: Shopping Center Study", May 18, 1995
4. Washington Consulting Group and Terry Shelton, "National Occupant Protection Use Survey, Final Report", July 31, 1995.
5. T.Shelton and J. Lago, "National Occupant Protection Use Survey", Fifteenth International Technical Conference on the Enhanced Safety of Vehicles, Melbourne, Australia, May 13-16, 1996.

Keywords: Shoulder belt, passenger car, light truck, driver, passenger, child restraint, motorcycle helmet

Project Tasks**Task Title and Description**

Task 1 Hire and train data collection supervisors and data collectors.

Task 2 Collect and code the data.

Task 3 Analyze data.

Task	Start Date	Projected Completion Date	Status/Responsibility
1	8/1/96	9/30/96	Started/Terry Shelton
2	10/1/96	12/15/96	Not started/Terry Shelton
3	1/1/97	11/30/97	Not started/Terry Shelton

Supporting Contracts

Task	Contract Number	COTR (phone)	Contracting Officer (phone)	Total Contract Cost (\$K)
All	DTNH22-93-D-07009	Terry Shelton (366-5362)	Doris Medley (366-9560)	\$550K